



NEWS

# MI5 bid to end bloody Daniel-Lyons gangland war by recruiting Costa Del Sol drug lord as peacemaker

The wealthy expat, who is in his 60s and was once jailed over a massive heroin haul in Glasgow.



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A major criminal based in Spain has been approached by security services in a bid to end the Daniel v Lyons **drugs war**.

The wealthy expat, who is in his 60s and was once jailed over a massive heroin haul in **Glasgow**, was asked to broker a truce between the warring families.

Both families have been told the approach may have come from Britain's domestic security service, MI5.

The National Crime Agency (NCA), described as Britain's FBI, are understood to have been involved in the extraordinary move to end Scotland's deadliest feud.

One source said: "The expat criminal was in London on business when he was approached by either the security services or the NCA."



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**Steven 'Bonzo' Daniel after machete attack** (Image: Sunday Mail)

“He was asked to use his influence by relaying the message to both sides that the bloodshed in Scotland had to end.

“Unfortunately, it seems not to have had the desired effect. There has been so much violence that neither side seems willing to back down.

► Gangster clampdown as feuding Lyons and Daniel families have cars seized in new offensive

They launched Operation Shillelagh against Paul Ferris – the first UK gangster ever targeted.

He was put under surveillance in 1996 and was caught with three MAC-10 machine guns and ammunition a year later.

MI5 were so pleased at how well their agents and police worked together that their director Stephen Lander wrote to Home Office permanent under secretary Richard Wilson to tell him about the success.

The agency – usually tasked with fighting threats to Britain's security – have since attempted to smash organised drug gangs in Manchester and London, including the notorious Adams crime family.

The feud between the Daniel and Lyons clans was sparked in 2001 when a small stash of cocaine was stolen from a house.

The consignment belonged to the Daniels but ended up being sold by the Lyons in Milton, Glasgow.



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### Kevin 'The Gerbil' Carroll was killed in Asda car park (Image: PA)

Their war has claimed the lives of Daniel enforcer Kevin "Gerbil" Carroll, 29, and Michael Lyons, 21.

Lyons was killed by two Daniel hitmen using British Army guns in a triple shooting in the city's Lambhill in 2006.

Steven Lyons, 37, was shot but survived and fled to Spain, where he formed an alliance with a major Irish drugs gang.

Following Carroll's 2010 shooting outside a suburban Asda supermarket, Billy Paterson, 38, joined pal Steven Lyons in the Costa del Sol.

Paterson eventually surrendered to police and in 2015 was jailed for at least 22 years for Carroll's murder.

Other incidents have included fire attacks, the desecration of eight-year-old Garry Lyons' grave and two shootings outside primary schools.

A car trader was last month jailed over a stash of guns found in his flat, which he was hiding for the Daniel gang.



► Gun attack victim ambushed in Glasgow has links to gangland figure Steven 'Bonzo' Daniel

The weapons were hidden in McIver's home in an area of Possil known as The Jungle – which the Daniels consider their territory.

Police believe the deadly arsenal would have been used against the Lyons clan. Ammunition and a stash of cocaine, cannabis and amphetamine valued at £168,000 were also seized.

McIver pled guilty to 12 charges and was sentenced to six years and eight months in prison at the High Court in Glasgow.

He is a long-term Daniel associate through the used car and scrap trade.



**Steven Lyons**

Jailing McIver, judge Lord Mulholland said: "Lethal weapons in the wrong hands can be used to maim or kill. This city has seen a lot of these offences."

There was a new wave of violence in the war between the families in January last year, when Lyons associate Ross Monaghan was shot in the shoulder minutes after dropping his daughter off at school.

The attack triggered a series of gun and machete attacks on several members of the Daniel family.

► Gun plot gangster mauled by the Lyons as crime clan 'order prison yard revenge attack'

Lead officer Detective Superintendent Kenny Graham vowed to “do whatever we can to dismantle them”. Officers have arrested 30 major gangland figures, found 50 stolen cars and seized about 300 mobile phones.

They have also issued more than 100 threat-to-life warnings as part of the multi-million-pound initiative.

It later emerged that police attempted to set up “peace talks” in a proposed meeting between Steven Lyons and Steven “Bonzo” Daniel, who suffered severe facial injuries in an alleged machete attack last May.

A police insider defended criticism of the unprecedented bid by saying it was “part of a range of measures to try to engage with both sides”.

The secretive NCA were set up in 2013 to tackle organised crime – which includes offences related to drugs, human slavery and firearms – in the UK and overseas.

They have a unit based at the Scottish Crime Campus in Gartcosh, Lanarkshire.

MI5 do not respond to media enquiries. An NCA spokeswoman said: “The NCA do not routinely confirm nor deny the existence of investigations, or comment on specific intelligence matters.”



**December 2006** Michael Lyons, 21, right, is killed by two Daniel hitmen in a triple shooting at a garage in Lambhill, Glasgow. Cousin Steven Lyons, 37, below, is shot but survived and flees to Spain, where he forms an alliance with a major Irish drugs gang.



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**Michael Lyons was murdered at a garage in Glasgow in 2006**

**January 2010** Daniel enforcer Kevin “Gerbil” Carroll, below right, shot dead in an Asda in Robroyston, Glasgow.

**September 2015** Gerbil associate Ross Sherlock is shot and injured outside his daughter’s primary school in Bishopbriggs, near Glasgow.

**July 2016** Daniel family head Jamie dies of cancer at his home in Jordanhill, Glasgow.

**January 2017** Lyons associate Ross Monaghan, below left, is shot in the shoulder minutes after dropping his daughter off at school in Penilee, Glasgow.

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**March 2017** Operation Engagement launched to target the two families' organised crime activities across Scotland.

**May 2017** Jamie Daniel's son Steven "Bonzo" Daniel seriously assaulted in Glasgow's Port Dundas.

**June 2017** Robert Daniel's brother, also named Jamie, is seriously assaulted outside his home in Glasgow's Milton.

**July 2017** Annette Daniel holds summit at five-star hotel in Dubai on how to combat the rival Lyons clan.

**March 2018** Daniel associate William Barclay is attacked in front of his family in Springburn by two gunmen.



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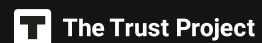
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